

Application No. 09/760,810  
Attorney's Docket No. 003300-737  
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Please replace claims 1 and 2 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method of treating a nerve disorder mediated by nucleus pulposus in a mammal in need of such treatment comprising the step of administering a TNF- $\alpha$  inhibitor wherein said TNF- $\alpha$  inhibitor is a metalloproteinase inhibitor excluding methylprednisolone for the treatment of nerve disorders mediated by nucleus pulposus in said mammal in need of such treatment wherein said nerve disorder mediated by nucleus pulposus is caused by the liberation of TNF- $\alpha$  and compounds triggered by the liberation of or presence of TNF- $\alpha$  by inhibiting TNF- $\alpha$ .
2. (Twice Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a nerve disorder mediated by nucleus pulposus in a mammal in need of such treatment comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a TNF- $\alpha$  inhibitor wherein said TNF- $\alpha$  inhibitor is a metalloproteinase inhibitor excluding methylprednisolone for the treatment of nerve disorders mediated by nucleus pulposus in said mammal in need of such treatment wherein said nerve disorder mediated by nucleus pulposus is caused by the liberation of TNF- $\alpha$  and compounds triggered by the liberation of or presence of TNF- $\alpha$  by inhibiting TNF- $\alpha$ .